

A \$100 bill that's really in mint-green condition

By Roger Boye

ALouisiana bank employee reportedly has discovered a \$100 Federal Reserve note that might make collectors turn green with envy.

The unusual bill features a bright green Federal Reserve seal to the left of Benjamin Franklin's portrait, rather than a normal black seal. Four numbers on the front side—the so-called Federal Reserve district numbers—also are printed in green instead of black.

"It's unique; there's no record of something like this ever happening before," said author and researcher Alan Herbert, who first reported on the too-green "greenback" in hobby newspaper Numismatic News.

Herbert said he and others who examined the bill believe it to be genuine, the product of sloppy work at the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. A bureau employee apparently poured the wrong ink into a font on a printing press.

The Treasury seal to the right of the center portrait and the two serial numbers appear in their normal green. Also, there are no other printing mistakes on the series 1990 note from the Dallas Federal Reserve bank.

Harry E. Jones of Cleveland, one of the country's leading dealers in paper-money errors, said on March 18 that he would pay \$500 for the bill found in Louisiana. He added that he might have to "back off" on that price if large numbers of similar

misprints turn up in circulation.

Uncle Sam puts the two seals, two serial numbers and four Federal Reserve district numbers on paper money in a separate press run dubbed the "overprint." Both green and black ink are supposed to be used in the overprint presses.



The nation's largest organization of coin collectors has decided to hold its huge summer conventions in or near Chicago whenever possible.

In a vote earlier this month, governors of the American Numismatic Association declared Chicago to be the "anchor site" for ANA conventions, which almost always attract at least 10,000 hobbyists to the host city.

"A lot of dealers and collectors like Chicago as the convention site because of the ease of getting in and out [of town]," said Donn Pearlman, the only ANA governor from the Chicago area.

The action doesn't exclude ANA conventions from being held in other cities as long as the show "returns to the Chicago area periodically." The 1993 convention—which was scheduled a few years ago—will be in Baltimore, and under current plans, the ANA conventions of 1999 and 2002 will be in the Chicago area.

In 1991, the ANA held its 100th anniversary convention in suburban Rosemont, with about 21,000 persons in attendance. That was the first ANA show in the Chicago area since 1966.